

NOTES ON SOME CHRYSOMELID BEETLES FROM THE UNITED STATES AND ARGENTINA

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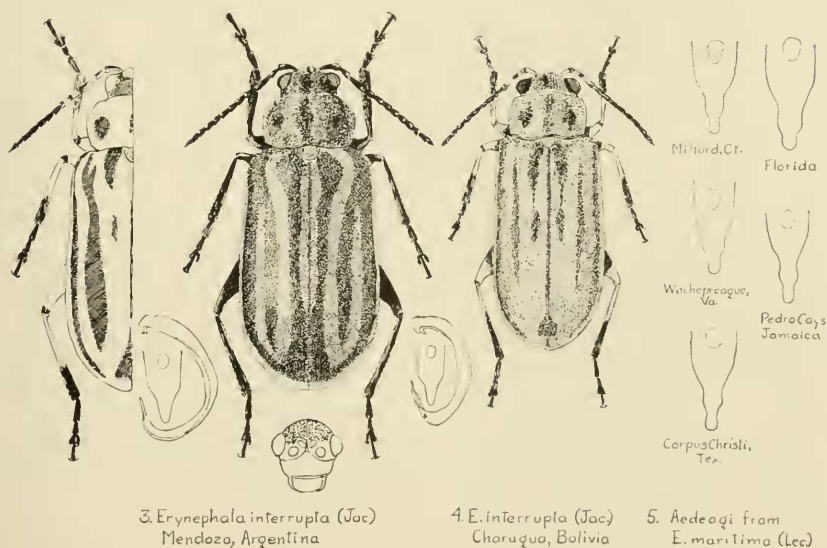
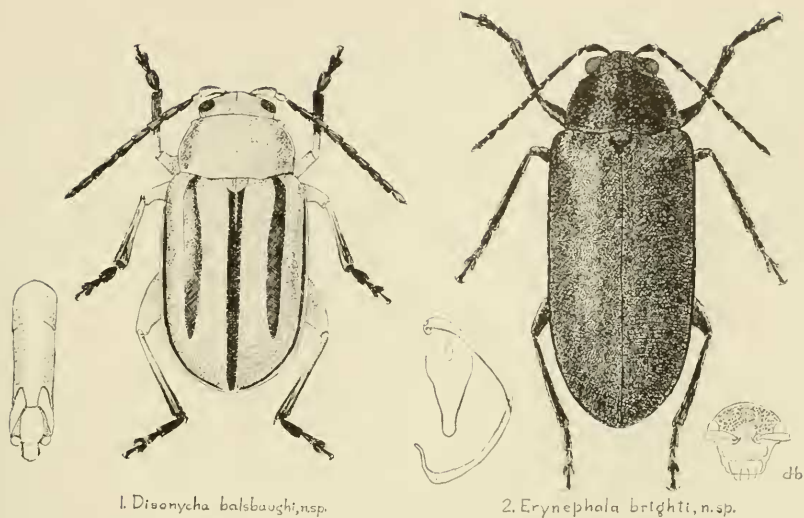
ABSTRACT—Two new species of chrysomelid beetles from the United States are described, one a new *Disonycha* from northeastern Alabama, the other a new *Erynephala* from Oakland, California, and an Argentine species described as *Galerucella interrupta* by Jacoby is shown to be another species of *Erynephala*.

Another species of vittate *Disonycha* has been brought to my attention by Dr. Edward Balsbaugh who found it in the Loding collection at Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Loding collected it in the northeastern corner of Alabama, a mountainous area. It represents the second new species of vittate *Disonycha* recently collected, the other, *D. weismanni* Blake, being from the sandhill region of North Carolina. And a fifth species of *Erynephala*, which was collected in Oakland, California, has been sent to me by Dr. Donald Bright from the Canadian National Collection. It is most closely related to the eastern *E. maritima* (Lec.) and was also collected in salt marshes. Drawings of the aedeagi of specimens of *E. maritima* collected at various locations along the Atlantic coast and Jamaica have been made for the purpose of comparison with the aedeagus of this west coast closely related species. John A. Wilcox has sent me the sixth species of the genus that he recognized as congeneric which was described by Jacoby from Mendoza, Argentina, under the name of *Galerucella interrupta*, and which is here figured.

***Disonycha balsbaughi*, n. sp.**
(Fig. 1)

Approximately 6 mm. in length, oblong oval, faintly shining, prothorax and elytra nearly impunctate, pale yellow with dark antennae, apical half of tibiae and also tarsi dark; elytra with narrow dark submarginal and sutural vittae not united at tip and a wider median dark vitta.

Head with widely set eyes, interocular space more than half width of head, occiput rounded, a group of punctures on either side near eye, frontal tubercles distinct, a rounded carina; pale yellow except for brownish mouthparts. Antennae stout, extending below humeri, dark with two basal joints usually paler, fourth joint longer than third and succeeding joints. Prothorax more than twice as wide as long with arcuate sides widest at base, and sinuate basal margin; not very convex, smooth, shiny, nearly impunctate, and entirely pale. Scutellum pale. Elytra somewhat shiny, nearly impunctate, pale yellow with sutural and narrow submarginal vittae not united at apex, and a broader median vitta that in three of the four specimens is short and ends at apical curve, in fourth specimen (from a different locality) median vitta normal in length, ending near tip. Body beneath



and legs reddish brown, tibiae in apical half and tarsi tending to be dark. Length 5.5–7 mm.; width 3–3.5 mm.

Type.—Male, U.S.N.M. Type No. 70228; two paratypes in Loding collection, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Type locality.—Swaim, Jackson Co., Alabama, H. P. Loding, June

19, 1934. One other locality represented by one specimen, National Forest, Alabama, June 17, 1932, H. P. Loding.

The aedeagus of this species is different from that of any other species of *Disonycha* that I have seen. The beetle itself is not unusual in markings having an unspotted pronotum and sutural, median and submarginal vittae like many other species. In three of the four specimens, however, the median vitta is unusually short. I take pleasure in naming this species for Dr. Edward U. Balsbaugh who noted the specimens in the Loding collection and sent them to me as probably new.

***Erynephala brighti*, n. sp.**

(Fig. 2)

Between 6.2 and 8.3 mm. in length, elongate, varying from yellow brown to piceous black, only faintly shining, head and prothorax with only a faint trace of very short pale pubescence, elytra with short inconspicuous pale hairs; head and prothorax rugose with coarse punctures, elytra with dense contiguous punctation, coarser in basal half.

Head with interocular space more than half width of head, occiput and front rather coarsely and densely punctate with a faint median depressed line and with very short sparse white hairs only visible from certain angles, frontal tubercles distinct but not elevated and lower front full and rounded without depression below antennal sockets, varying from yellow brown to piceous, not at all shiny, with labrum usually pale even in dark specimens. Antennae extending a little below humeri, first and third joints longest, fourth a little shorter, and fifth shortest, seventh and eighth joints broad and somewhat longer than fifth, remainder approximately the same length. Prothorax nearly twice as broad as long at base, narrowed with little curvature anteriorly, basal margin sinuous over scutellum, surface faintly shining, rugose with coarse, shallow punctures, a faint median depressed line, and in some specimens vaguely depressed on sides, only a trace of short pale pubescence on sides, in color varying from pale yellow brown to piceous. Scutellum broad and with very fine white pubescence. Elytra nearly five times as long as prothorax and not much wider, with broad margin and epipleura extending nearly to apex, surface densely and in basal half along suture coarsely and contiguously punctate, punctures on sides and at apex not so coarse but very dense, a fine short pale pubescence not at all conspicuous; in color varying from pale yellow brown to piceous, sometimes with a piceous vitta along side. Body beneath and legs with fine, pale, short, silken pubescence longer than on upper surface. Length 6.2–8.3 mm.; width 2.5–3.5 mm.

Type.—Male and six paratypes in Canadian National Collection, four paratypes in U.S.N.M.

Type locality.—On tidal flat, Oakland, California, on *Chenopodium*, Sept. 27, 1936, Hugh Leech.

Other localities.—Alameda Co., Calif., Nov. 17, 1938, R. G. Dahl; Bay Farm, Alameda Co., Calif., Nov. 11, 1938, R. G. Dahl.

This west coast species of *Erynephala* is scarcely distinguishable from the east coast species, *maritima* (Lec.). The eastern species is

found from New England to Texas, where Mr. Schaeffer described it as *texana*—it is, however, not more than a southern race. It has also been taken in Jamaica. The only thing separating the west coast species from the eastern *maritima* is a differently shaped tip to the aedeagus. As in the other species the color varies from pale yellow brown to piceous and the elytra may have a dark vitta.

E. brighti differs from *morosa* (Lec.) in being less pubescent—the head is almost without hairs, and the pubescence on the elytra is very short and inconspicuous. Unlike *morosa* the lower part of the face is bulging with no marked depression below the antennal sockets and the frontal tubercles are not conspicuous as in *morosa*. The prothorax is like that of *maritima* in being depressed on the sides and not like *morosa*. The elytra in *morosa* are shiny and with long, dense, semi-erect pubescence, but in *brighti* the elytra are like those of *maritima* in which the pubescence is short and not dense. *E. puncticollis* (Lec.) and *morosa* are closely related and with similar aedeagi, but *brighti*, which occurs in the same area as *morosa*, is closely related to the eastern species, *maritima* with only slight differences in the aedeagus. Drawings have been made of the aedeagi of *maritima* from specimens collected at Milford, Conn., Wachepreague, Va., Florida, Corpus Christi, Texas, and Jamaica for purposes of comparison with the West coast species.

***Erynephala interrupta* (Jacoby), n. comb.**

(Figs. 3, 4)

Galerucella interrupta Jacoby, 1904, Ark. f. Zool. 1:523.

From 5 to 7 mm. in length, dull yellow brown with very short and sparse inconspicuous pubescence on head and prothorax, dark antennae, often basal joints partly dark, head more or less dark over upper part, usually three dark spots across pronotum and elytra with dark and often interrupted vittae along side and one in middle and one subsutural, surface very coarsely and on elytra contingently punctate.

Head with interocular space more than half width of head, occiput dark and densely and coarsely punctate, a depressed line down middle, with fine, short pale pubescence, frontal tubercles well marked, lower front rounded, smooth, shiny, usually this and labrum paler yellow brown. Antennae not extending much below humeri, in paler specimens three basal joints pale with dark spot, remainder dark, in dark specimens all joints dark, first and third long, outer joints wider, scarcely longer than wide. Prothorax approximately twice as wide as long, depressed on sides which are often straight, basal margin sinuate over scutellum. Scutellum pale. Elytra nearly five times as long as prothorax, rugose with coarse contiguous shallow punctures, yellow brown with three more or less entire black vittae on each elytron, one usually entire along side and one median, the last subsutural, usually interrupted, sutural edges often dark too. Body beneath usually yellow brown and legs sometimes entirely dark, usually with median dark

area on femora and apical half of tibiae and also tarsi dark. Claws in male with very small tooth, claws in female simple. Length 5-7 mm.

Type locality.—Mendoza, Argentina.

Other localities.—Argentina: Buenos Aires, La Pampa, Salta, Cordoba, Chaco, La Riasa, Sanagasta, Jujuy, Perico to Embarcion. Paraguay: Misiones. Bolivia: Charagua. Many specimens from near Buenos Aires in Daguerre collection.

John A. Wilcox has sent me specimens of Jacoby's *Galerucella interrupta* writing that he had dissected the male and found the aedeagus of the same elongate shape and bent in the abdomen in the peculiar manner of species of the genus *Erynephala*. He has also written to me that there is considerable taxonomic confusion about the name of this species, and that Bechyne¹ has synonymized *interrupta* with *Galeruca subvittata* Demay, described from "Guyane" in 1838. Considering the distance of the length of the continent between these two type localities, Mendoza and Guiana, and the fact that the color pattern of *interrupta* is a rather common one in galerucids, I believe there is room for doubt that Jacoby's species is the same as the beetle Demay described which was collected on a trip to Demerara (Georgetown) in British Guiana. Bechyne has also synonymized under Demay's *subvittata*, *Galerucella murina* (Blanchard) from Bolivia. The illustration of *murina* in the original d'Orbigny² publication shows a beetle with strongly produced anterior angles to the prothorax, seven spots on the pronotum, and elytra with 16 dark spots, a beetle not only different in shape but with quite different markings from *interrupta*. Bechyne has described a new genus for Demay's *subvittata*, naming it *Sarigueia* with the genotype *subvittata*. He differentiated this new genus from *Galerucella* in the matter of the claws. But he has not noted any sexual differences in the claws, which are different in the sexes in the genus *Erynephala*.

Galerucella nigropicta Boheman, which was described from Buenos Aires,³ has been synonymized in the Gemminger and Harold Catalogue and also in the Junk Catalogue with *murina*. Boheman described *nigropicta* as having the elytra three times as long as the prothorax and the beetles as pubescent. In *interrupta* the elytra are five times as long as the prothorax and not at all pubescent. So it would seem that *nigropicta* and *murina* are not the same as *interrupta* and I believe it is unlikely that *interrupta* is the same as *subvittata*.

¹ 1956, Ent. Arb. Mus. Frey 7:303; 1958, Ent. Arb. Mus. Frey 9:543.

² Blanchard, 1843, Coleoptera, Voy. d'Orbigny 6(2):212.

³ Boheman, 1859, Eugenes Resa, p. 177.